



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Annual Economic Survey of Federal Gulf Shrimp Permit Holders

NOAA Fisheries Service is working to improve its ability to determine the economic and social effects of regulations and other factors that impact the profitability and value of the Gulf shrimp fishery. For this, we need to collect data about operating expenses and the costs of owning and maintaining shrimp vessels. Together with the introduction of the permit moratorium, we are starting an **Annual Economic Survey of Federal Gulf Shrimp Permit Holders**. Each year we will sample approximately 20% of permitted vessels rather than the entire fleet in order to minimize the overall reporting burden on shrimp fishermen.

We will randomly determine which vessels will be required to participate in the survey this year. In the near future, the owners of the selected vessels will receive notification and the survey material in the mail. We will be asking for total 2006 expenditures *by the selected vessel* for crew, fuel, ice and other trip supplies; for total vessel maintenance, investment, and overhead;

and for payments to the owner. Some further questions are necessary, including information about insurance, vessel value, loans, and depreciation. We have tried hard to limit the collection to a minimum of readily available information from tax or similar forms.

In the interest of fairness and data quality, this data collection effort **is required for permit renewal if you are selected**. Each year a new random sample of vessels (~ 20%) will be drawn, but no vessel will be required to complete a survey two years in a row.

All individual information will be treated as strictly confidential, and will be combined with information from other fishermen to present an overall view of the economic health of the industry or a particular component of the industry (such as average fuel costs for Texas shrimp vessels). This information will help NOAA Fisheries Service conduct economic and statistical analyses on the Gulf shrimp fishery.

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